



NEWCASTLE-EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report upon the health and sanitation of your area for 1948.

Area, 208 acres.

Population, 784.

Number of Houses, 253.

Rateable Value, £3062.

Newcastle-Emllyn is a typical market town situated in Carmarthenshire, in close proximity to the county borders of Cardigan and Pembroke. The population remains constant but there is an influx of visitors during the holiday season.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Total Live Births 13, 7 Males and 6 Females. 2 Births were illegitimate ; there were no Stillbirths, and no Deaths of Infants under one year.

The Birth Rate was 16.5 per 1000 as compared with 17.9 for England and Wales.

The total number of Deaths were 11, 4 Males and 7 Females, giving a Death Rate of 14.03 per 1000 as compared with 10.8 for England and Wales. Average age at death, 64. Of the deaths, 4 were due to heart disease, 1 due to tuberculosis, 1 to cancer, 1 to nephritis, and 1 to diabetes.

Tuberculosis.

During the year, one fresh case was notified and one died, and now 6 cases remain on the register. The Tuberculosis Physician visits the town twice a month, when he examines any patients referred to him by local medical practitioners.

Infectious Diseases.

2 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Measles, and 1 of Whooping Cough were reported, and all made uneventful recovery. No cases of diphtheria occurred during the year. We are now reaping the benefits of immunisation, which, it is urged, should be performed on every infant.

Venereal Diseases.

These diseases are not as prevalent here as in the industrial and seaport towns. The nearest treatment centres are at Swansea and Llanelly. With the advent of the sulphonamide group of drugs and penicillin, however, effective treatment may be given at home by medical practitioners, provided patients report immediately for treatment. No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported.

Water Supply.

The water supply remains adequate except during periods of drought. The relaying of the old mains is still held up owing to shortage of materials. Laboratory reports on the purity of the water are satisfactory.

Sewerage System.

The present system has been in existence for very many years, and has many defects. A number of houses are without a water carriage system. The slenderness of the Civic Purse has, hitherto, precluded the planning of a new scheme for drainage and sewage disposal.

Scavenging.

Refuse is collected at weekly intervals, by and open cart. I would recommend a more frequent collection, as garbage allowed to accumulate is likely to become a nuisance, particularly during the hot weather.

Housing.

The housing situation remains acute. The Council has laboured hard over this thorny problem, having been handicapped in the first instance by the difficulty of finding suitable sites within the confined Urban District Area. It is hoped that the building plans will be put into operation soon.

General Remarks.

The health of the community was maintained at a very satisfactory level during 1948. It is pleasing to note there was no major outbreak of disease, and that no case of diphtheria or of Infantile Paralysis was reported.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S. ROBERTS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

